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FAX Phone Number 703-872-9306

Date October 31, 2004

Art Unit 2132

From: Ken Ouchi assisting the Inventors Welborn et al

Cover letter and four pages

Attached are new Claims covering the allowable subject matter

If there are questions please call me at 408-757-5862

Respectfully submitted



Ken Ouchi

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Response to USPTO Office Action

Confirmation Number: 5713

Examiner: Abdulhakim Nobahar

Art Unit: 2132

Title: Computer Virus Avoidance System and Mechanism

Application Number: 09/470,058

Inventor: Welborn et al

Date: October 31, 2004

Summary of the Invention

Nearly all computer viruses require an action by a computer user to infect and spread. The key is to educate users not to open e-mail attachments that might carry computer viruses. The key is behavior modification, as education is not sufficient. Effective behavior modification must have a means to reinforce the change and measure the change in user behavior. The invention sends an e-mail with an attachment to e-mail users and creates a list of all users that open the attachment. The user is sent an e-mail with an attachment that looks similar to attachments that contain computer viruses. If the attachment is opened, an e-mail is sent to a specific e-mail address. This e-mail address collects all of the e-mail from users who have not changed behavior and need additional education or management attention.

Issues

Action is Final

Claims 18-37 are pending.

Claims 18, 20-22, 26, 28-31, 34 and 35 are rejected.

Claims 19, 23-25, 27, 32-33, 36 and 37 are objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response:

Cancel claims 18-37

Grouping Claims 38 – 41, 42-45, 46-49 where Claims 38, 42, and 46 are independent claims.

New Claims

(NEW) 38. A computer user behavior modification system to avoid computer viruses and an electronic messaging system with users wherein a list of users who activate a mock computer virus is created by

- sending a user a message with a mock computer virus
- adding the user's identifier to the list of users who activate a mock computer virus when the user activates the mock computer virus and the list of users who activate a mock computer virus is used to identify computer users whose behavior needs to be modified to avoid activating real computer viruses.

(NEW) 39. The computer user behavior modification system to avoid computer viruses of claim 38, wherein the mock computer virus displays a message to the user when the mock computer virus is activated.

(NEW) 40. The computer user behavior modification system to avoid computer viruses of claim 38, wherein the list of users who activate a mock computer virus is used to measure the behavior of computer users to avoid computer viruses.

(NEW) 41. The computer user behavior modification system to avoid computer viruses of claim 38, wherein a user who did not activate the mock computer virus and is not on the list of users who activate a mock computer virus is rewarded.

(NEW) 42. A mock computer virus and list of electronic message system users whose behavior may activate a computer virus and an electronic message system with users, wherein

- the mock computer virus is sent in an electronic message to a user
- the user is added to the list of electronic message system users whose behavior may activate a computer virus when the user activates the mock virus

and the list of electronic message users whose behavior may activate a computer virus is used to identify users whose behavior may activate a real computer virus.

(NEW) 43. The mock computer virus and list of electronic message system users whose behavior may activate a computer virus of claim 42, wherein the mock computer virus displays a message when a user activates the mock computer virus.

(NEW) 44. The mock computer virus and list of electronic message system users whose behavior may activate a computer virus of claim 42, wherein the list of electronic message system users whose behavior may activate a computer virus is used to measure the behavior of users who may activate a real computer virus.

(NEW) 45. The mock computer virus and list of electronic message system users whose behavior may activate a computer virus of claim 42, wherein a user who does not activate the mock computer virus and is not on the list of

electronic message system users whose behavior may activate a computer virus is rewarded.

(NEW) 46. A list of electronic message system users who activate a mock computer virus, an electronic message system with users, and a mock computer virus wherein

- an electronic message with the mock computer virus is sent to a user
- the user is added to the list of electronic message system users who activate a mock computer virus when the user activates the mock computer virus

and the list of electronic message system users who activate a mock computer virus is used to identify users whose behavior may activate a real computer virus.

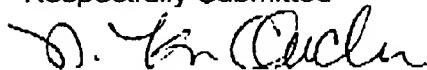
(NEW) 47. The list of electronic message system users who activate a mock computer virus of claim 46, wherein the mock computer virus displays a message when the user activates the mock computer virus.

(NEW) 48. The list of electronic message system users who activate a mock computer virus of claim 46, wherein the list of electronic message system users who activate a mock computer virus is used to measure the behavior of users to activate computer viruses.

(NEW) 49. The list of electronic message system users who activate a mock computer virus of claim 46, wherein a user who does not activate the mock computer virus and is not on the list of electronic message system users who activate a mock computer virus is rewarded.

The Welborns will sign the claims if the new claims are acceptable.

Respectfully Submitted



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